



# Call for Participation (CfP)

## Bits & Bäume 2022 – The Conference for Digitalisation and Sustainability

October 1st and 2nd 2022, Berlin  
Evening kick-off event on September 30th

Registration: [pretalx.com/bitsundbaeume/cfp](https://pretalx.com/bitsundbaeume/cfp)

Deadline Registration: June 7th 2022

Contact for questions: [cfp@bits-und-baeume.org](mailto:cfp@bits-und-baeume.org)

**We connect communities and stand up for political change in the interaction of digitalisation and sustainability. Support the movement with your contribution to the conference.**

After the successful Bits & Bäume Conference in 2018 the topics of digitalisation and sustainability are more present than ever within our society. For the purpose of achieving a fair and sustainable design of our world as well as our environment we are facing big societal and global challenges. That's why we want to stabilise and extend the collaboration between environmental- and social justice activists, technical experts and human rights activists via the conference Bits & Bäume 2022 which will take place from **September 30th until October 2nd**. In order to find common solutions for the pressing questions of our time one of our main goals is to initiate networking opportunities for communities and representatives of socially and ecologically oriented small companies, start-ups and founders. We want to discuss major political strategies and governance proposals, but also learn from each other through best practice examples on how to achieve climate and environmental protection, social justice, democracy and fundamental rights in our digital age.

Together in panel discussions, workshops and open spaces we want to reflect on how to take action and how to specifically implement sustainable digitalisation.

## Our key questions are:

1. **How should digitalisation be shaped in a way that it contributes to a sustainable and democratic transformation of our society?**
2. **What does a globally, economically, socially and ecologically just future look like in the digitalised world?**
3. **What can the tech community (bits) and the justice and environmental movement (bäume) learn from each other? And how can those communities get in touch with social-ecological pioneer companies, science and politics?**
4. **How can we become politically active together?**

The *Bits & Bäume 2022* participants want to interfere and stir things up politically. We openly stand up against anti-democratic trends and position ourselves for scientific-based, innovative, active and cross-movement approaches to solutions for sustainable digitalisation.

With this Call for Participation, we call on people from civic organisations and progressive players within science, economy and politics to help shape the conference with their own contributions! We are looking forward to various diverse and creative topics and formats. Possible formats include discussion rounds, lightning talks, project presentations, campaign planning, (hands-on) workshops, activist info tables, installations, film screenings, hackathons, design thinking sessions, interviews, live podcasts, small group work, cultural formats, world cafés, craft workshops, art performances, design elements or anything else creative and innovative you can think of!

In addition to all the stages and spaces of the broad call (1) we are also inviting initiatives and organisations to present themselves and their projects in our B&B-Forum to share knowledge and to engage with one another (2). Furthermore, we would like to welcome contributions from the business world with innovative approaches to the challenges described in this paper (3). Therefore there will be three different formats: contributions to the programme, B&B-Forum and Pitch & Thrive for Sustainability.

**1. Programme Contribution**

**2. The B&B-Forum**

**3. Pitch & Thrive for Sustainability**

**4. Application**

## Bits & Bäume 2022 is organised by:

Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (BUND), Brot für die Welt, Chaos Computer Club (CCC), Deutscher Naturschutzring (DNR), Einstein Centre Digital Future/Technische Universität Berlin, Forum InformatikerInnen für Frieden und gesellschaftliche Verantwortung e. V. (FifF), Free Software Foundation Europe (FSFE), Germanwatch e. V., Institut für ökologische Wirtschaftsforschung (IÖW), Konzeptwerk Neue Ökonomie, Open Knowledge Foundation Deutschland e. V. (OKF), Weizenbaum Institut e. V., Vereinte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft (ver.di)

The Conference is funded by Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU) and co-funded by Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (BMUV). The work of Germanwatch and Forum InformatikerInnen für Frieden und gesellschaftliche Verantwortung (FifF) related to Bits & Bäume 2022 is mainly funded by Stiftung Mercator.

# 1. Programme Contribution

## Which topics can be submitted?

Topics at Bits & Bäume cover all content at the interface of sustainability and digitalisation. They range from cross-linked mobility to the raw material and power requirements for digital devices, data sufficiency and cooperative platform economies to smart energy networks or monopolisation tendencies in the digital economy. Topics should be looked at from many different perspectives. *What needs to be concluded, created or maintained? What lacks thoughtful criticism and who should be talking to whom?* We are looking forward to hearing your ideas! As a suggestion, here are some of the aspects that seem important to us.

Economy and Resources

New social Question (“New social Deal”)

Social Compatibility, Technology Design and Sovereignty

Property, power and democracy in the age of knowledge

Global north-south question

Digitalisation and climate protection

Smart new public, society and democracy

Digital und sustainable – transformative business models

### Economy and Resources

- circular economy
- industrial turnaround
- digital economy for the common good
- sustainable system design
- commons and new modes of production
- digital sufficiency
- waste
- resources, geopolitics and the limits of the planet
- right to repair
- shaping structural change
- framework requirements for sustainability

### New social Question (“New social Deal”)

- intersectional feminism
- power relations – breaking up power asymmetries
- orientation towards the common good
- distributive justice
- concentration of income
- digital work, social justice, co-determination
- digital gig economy
- logistics and the return of the “servants”
- discrimination through technology
- autonomy, self-determination, democratic controllability in work and society
- digital divide
- optimisation, control and monitoring at the workplace
- educational access
- illegal content and digital dirty work

### **Social Compatibility, Technology Design and Sovereignty**

- right to ownership
- long-lasting infrastructures within social responsibility
- long-term systems and technical care work
- free software, free knowledge and open-source practices
- access & barriers to infrastructures
- data trade and global power relations
- data commons and the realisation of informational self-determination
- data protection, fundamental rights and data use
- peaceful transformation – peaceful society
- critical infrastructures – vulnerability, resilience and peace
- security and sustainability “by design”
- digital infrastructures for peace
- public security and resilient systems – ensuring democratic controllability

### **Property, power and democracy in the age of knowledge**

- free software, standardisation and interoperability
- socialisation of tech corporations and digital planned economy
- state regulation of technology and social pressure
- impacts of platforms and tech monopolies
- platform regulation
- data protection as protection of fundamental rights
- digital sovereignty, informational self-determination and digital commons
- public platforms
- common struggles ranging from free software to the climate

### **Global north-south question**

- transnational tech corporations and democratic control
- digital colonialism versus digital sovereignty
- third option for Europe – beyond surveillance capitalism and surveillance state
- development cooperation
- human rights violations through resource extraction
- networking of producers and consumers in activism
- global internet governance
- international agreements and IT policy
- digital trade, tariffs and taxes
- right to local data storage
- civil society: digital networking, communication and advocacy versus state control and surveillance

### **Digitalisation and climate protection**

- climate-neutral digital infrastructures
- mobility turnaround
- sharing services and surveillance
- energy transition
- agricultural transition
- consumer turnaround
- the data turnaround – protection of fundamental rights and data commons
- energy efficiency and rebound effects
- saving energy
- regulatory law for data centres
- transmission technologies and their power consumption
- streaming services, movies, music, social media – resource consumption
- consumer behaviour and climate impacts
- current streaming practices and their regulations
- conditions for informational self-determination

### **Smart new public, society and democracy**

- smart cities and digitalisation strategies – sovereign, democratic and sustainable?
- so-called “social media”, algorithms, platforms, online organising and filter bubbles
- personalised advertising
- “influencing” elections
- solutionism and technology dependency
- fake news, manipulation and information warfare
- informational sustainability
- education for the digital age
- influences of digitalisation on the psyche
- control and manipulation
- challenges of parliamentarism
- demagoguery and hate in the net

### **Digital und sustainable – transformative business models**

- ideas and best practices by freelancers, start-ups and SMEs
- digital solutions for sustainability
- public good oriented, cooperative economic activities
- growth-critical business management
- making digitalisation sustainable
- good work by design, privacy by design – new sustainable business models
- inclusive change management and sustainable innovation management
- participative economic activities for structural change
- new business models for transformation to sustainable business – co-determined and creative

## 2. The B&B-Forum

We are going to offer a creative space within the conference where initiatives/organisations/institutions/networks/start-ups etc. will be present and active on site. That way there will also be room for common areas of exchange beyond the programme. For this simply select “Forum” as the format.

### How can we design the Forum?

Here are some suggestions on how to design your space at *B&B-Forum*:

- info or discourse sofa
- kitchen or regulars' table with table, chairs and benches
- fixed DIY-corner
- micro-exhibition or micro-cinema
- creative sessions with whiteboard and stickers
- campaign planning
- hackathon or soldering session
- secret flash mob area
- speakers corner (not too loud, please)
- networking corner
- or whatever comes to mind

**Note: We will provide space, table(s) and chairs but you will have to manage your own space.**

### What should we submit?

Please use the same form as for the entire Call for Participation and choose the format “B&B-Forum”. In the description please explain who you are, how your organisation is financed, what actions you envision on site, how much space you need and what technical equipment (especially electricity) and furniture you require. You may ignore the time box for the forum.

## 3. Pitch & Thrive for Sustainability

### Challenge your start-up

The future belongs to sustainable business models. Save yourself expensive consultants and present your start-up, your challenge or your idea to a panel of selected experts and our community. “Shark tank” in green aka “Die Höhle der Löwen” though sustainable and without a camera.

Are you or your company working in the IT sector, do you want to master a sustainability challenge and use digital technologies to do so? Would you like to know how sustainable you are? Do you want experts to take a closer look at your business model? If any or all of these things apply then you're in the right place at “Pitch & Thrive for Sustainability” – this year's special format for sustainable start-ups and/or alternative and ecologically oriented small and medium-sized enterprises.

## How exactly does it work?

**Pitch (10 Min):** During the conference we will offer daily slots where you can pitch your project, start-up, small business or simply your idea to a selected panel and to the Bits&Bäume community.

**Thrive (20 Min):** Afterwards you will get valuable feedback and follow-up questions on the sustainability of your venture, but of course also on the potential profitability of your business case. An evaluation will be given by selected jurors and the audience.

## What do you get out of this?

The best start-ups, projects or ideas will be prominently presented on our website. The winners will also receive the fiercely contested, much wanted and glorious “Bitsbaum 2022”. In addition you have the chance to network with like-minded people and possible cooperation partners on site. The format also offers you the unique opportunity to receive cost-free valuable feedback and helpful tips from experts working in the fields of sustainability, tech and business.

## What should we submit?

Please use the same form as for the entire Call for Participation and choose the format “Pitch & Thrive for Sustainability”. In any case please indicate if you will NOT be able to attend one of the conference days. We will contact you with a time slot and further important information.

# 4. Application

## Who may apply?

Anyone who is interested and has something to contribute to sustainable digitalisation. It would be great if you could apply in a tandem, i.e. choose a topic in twos or threes, so that you can take on different perspectives (e.g. climate activist and computer scientist). Obviously, this is no requirement.

Please apply here: [pretalx.com/bitsundbaeume/cfp](https://pretalx.com/bitsundbaeume/cfp) until **June 7th 2022**. In case of questions connected to the *Call for Participation* please contact [cfp@bits-und-baeume.org](mailto:cfp@bits-und-baeume.org).